THE WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT

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DEPRIVED OF NATIONALITY!

Dear Editor,—In your issue of February 3rd, there is a paragraph describing the sorrows of *one* British-born wife of an interned alien.

Have all your readers realised that there are thousands of these unhappy women? They are a "silent mass of women-kind" with few to voice their woes. Not long ago one of these wives called upon me; she was a North-country woman of sturdy character—and she brought with her the subjoined petition asking me to help her. A simple little document enough, but one which goes straight to the point. The idea was to get it signed by the whole body of wives and a copy sent to every member of the House of Lords and Commons. The moment, however, is not thought opportune for the collection of so many signatures—even with the help of Scotland Yard, where the addresses of all are filed—and the idea was abandoned. Through your pages, however, the cry in the petition may reach the ear of those in power and some degree of alleviation be obtained.

Yours, etc.,

EMILY HOBHOUSE.

"PETITION

"We, the under-signed British-born women, wives of interned Germans and Austrians, beg to submit a petition for the release of our husbands.

"Patiently, for from eighteen months to two-and-a-half years, have we borne this dreadful separation from our husbands and supporters.

"Most of us are utterly ruined, suffering untold agonies of mind and body; some of our poor sister-sufferers have by this terrible strain lost their reason; which, as is well known, is also the case with many of our interned husbands who are now in lunatic asylums. Former friends and even relations—often the nearest—having abandoned most of us, we stand alone without sympathy, exposed to many dangers, our children bereft of their fathers, their education neglected.

"Pray consider this our appalling burden, being treated and restricted like the most dangerous enemies, on account of which many are unable to obtain work, being in addition often scoffed at and insulted on the mere mention of their alien name. Our lives, in fact, have become a veritable horror.

"We have battled bravely in spite of heavy odds, but we feel we cannot endure it any longer. We know our husbands are innocent, and you know it by your close censorship. That they are harmless is proved by their exemplary conduct during their long internment.

"Release them, we pray, or let those who wish to do so go with their families to some neutral country. This our case we grief-stricken women now put before the representatives of the country, relying on their humanity to bring about alleviation of this our misery.

A BUDGET

If, from an income of ten thousand a year, you suddenly drop to six, you are acutely aware of the difference, and grumble accordingly. It is the War! Everything disagreeable, from the loss of one's appetite to that of one's second footman, is put down to the War. But when, from an income of one hundred and fifty pounds a year you descend suddenly to fifty, without the hundred, the difference is not merely acute: it is tragic.

But if we get ourselves into a tram along the interminable Seven Sisters Road, we shall presently find ourselves faced by another Budget in the uninspiring neighbourhood of South Tottenham, where men-servants are unknown.

It is in this gregarious waste that Mrs. Schneider struggles to provide herself and three children with enough to keep body and soul together on a Government allowance of 19s. a week. For the sake of those interested in the problem of how a British-born wife of an interned alien meets the situation, we offer the following budget, obtained from the Emergency Committee of the Society of Friends, 169 St. Stephen's House, Westminster Bridge, S.W.:—

Rent	8	0
Coal	1	0
Gas	1	0
Tea, ¼ lb.	0	6
Sugar, 2 lbs.	0	10
Milk, two tins	1	0
Milk for Baby	0	6
Bread	4	7
Flour	0	5
Soap and Soda	0	6
Dried beans, peas, rice or barley	0	4
Margarine	0	7
	19	3

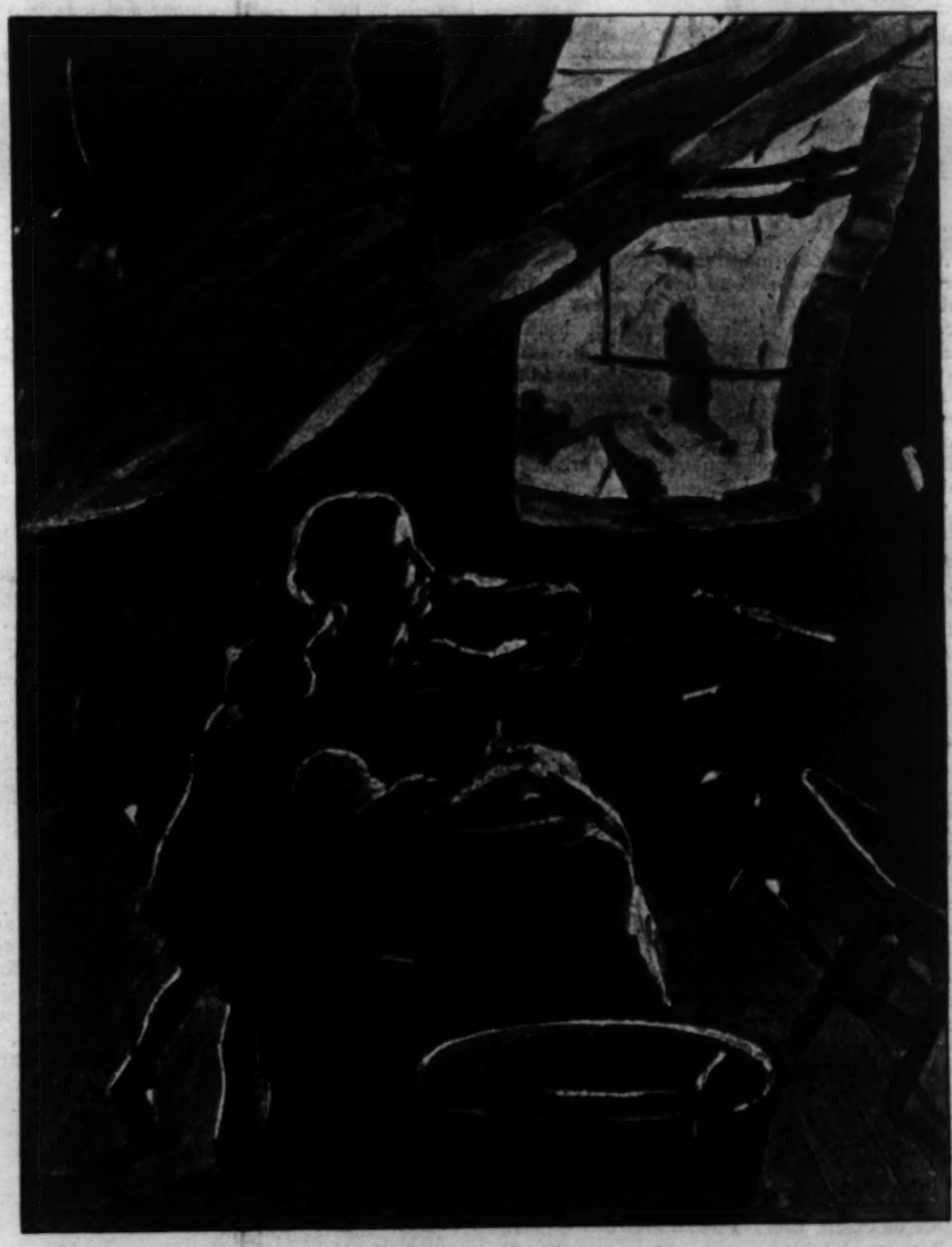
When we examine this interesting account we notice therein a "lack of fat and nitrogenous matter." Mrs. Schneider is confronted by the problem of how to sustain life without fat or nitrogenous matter, and although she is sufficiently Spartan herself to solve it by going without, a similar course with two growing chidren must inevitably result in malnutrition, and, sooner or later, disease.

When the rent of 8s. is paid, we find that there is 11s. at the disposal of the mother wherewith to supply the needs of the family for the entire week. Of these requirements, cooked food is one of the essentials. Unfortunately, you cannot cook food without a certain amount of heat, which means that out of the 11s. left, 2s. must go for fuel. There are now 9s. for everything else. When bread and flour are bought, the total comes down to 4s. Four shillings for the extra needs of a family of four persons, two of whom are growing boys of 13 and 14—and the baby must have milk. If the baby had an ounce of patriotism in it, it would, of course, do without—or, at any rate, it would be satisfied with a teaspoonful occasionally, and woudn't clamour for more. Unfortunately, the Schneider baby is at an age when one is too self-centred to be patriotic, and when patriotism is entirely subordinate to nitrogenous matter. So, owing to the baby's obstinacy, the surplus is reduced to 3s. 6d. Out of this, 6d. does for soap and soda, to keep the family clean.

Mrs. Schneider has now 3s. to play with. She "plays" with it by expending 2s. 4d. on such luxuries as condensed milk, sugar and tea.

The remaining 8d. seems to have affected her head, for we find her plunging recklessly into an orgy of dried beans and margarine. If only she had preserved her mental equilibrium, she might have perceived that this profligate extravagance was leading her to spend 3d. more than her income allowed! It reminds us of what we have so often been told about the improvidence of the poor.

The condition of Mrs. Schneider's budget is, of course, entirely the result of her having a German husband. The fact that she committed this indiscretion, 13 years before the War, does not necessarily absolve her in the eyes of those aflame with patriotism and the fervent glow of the Christian faith. Nor need her birth in Bermondsey, as one of the Stubbses of that unimpeachable British quarter, be advanced as any reason that she should be favourably regarded. For the thing that should damn her for ever in the minds of all right-thinking Englishmen is that she has the effrontery to continue to love the man she married, in spite of his nationality, and to struggle against overwhelming odds for the sake of the children she bore him.



THE EXPLOSION* *By Amy K. Browning.*

War comes home to Non-Combatants.

THE HOUSEWIFE'S PLAINT

At this time, when food is getting scarcer and appeals to economy are being made in the Press and elsewhere, it is well to pause and think how much truth is in the charges of extravagance, luxury and thoughtlessness made against the workers.

A comparison of prices made in figures, of so much per cent. increases does not convey much to the average mind. That only appeals to the expert. Even then it is necessary that the expert should have the handling of a sum of money that will hardly keep body and soul together actually to enable him to realise what the increase per cent. means, for no one knows where the shoe pinches but the one who wears it.

Take this case of a munition worker's wife and the struggle she has for existence. They have knocked off the working week-ends and meal hours, and the husband now gets 30s. a week. Two shillings a week car fare has to be paid, 7s. 9d. a week rent—9s. 9d. gone before a bit of food, coal or light is purchased, and there are five of them to keep! This mother does plain sewing with her three young kiddies round her knees to eke the money out. There is need for a little *more* food here if the children are to grow up with any strength at all. There are thousands of such cases, and it is impossible to imagine the silent misery that is being endured.

It must be remembered that the average working-class mother wishes to do her best to pay her way, and since the War commenced it has been simply a matter of going without this, that and the other as the prices rose.

There was much talk about the *soldiers'* Christmas pudding, but many soldiers' *children* did not get any, as out of the separation allowance it was impossible to buy the ingredients. Only where the children can be left and "mother" goes to work to supplement the income can puddings be provided, and then it means that "mother" is a veritable slave, with the prospect

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* Copies of this picture printed on Art Paper may be obtained from the "Woman's Dreadnought" Office, price 3d.

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Bravely and willingly we bear our share of the World's burdens. Why, then, deny us the right to Vote, which would dignify our labour and increase our Power of Service?

NATIONAL SERVICE

A commonwealth in which all men and women serve their fellows and no one cares for private gain; labour is a joy, and the workers toil to increase their skill and swiftness, and bend all their efforts to perfect the task; the fruits of the earth and of collective industry belong to all; there is no thought of want or grudging, but should some untoward circumstance produce a temporary shortage, all willingly share what there is, the children and the weaker alone receiving privileges, which are not asked, but thrust upon them. This is "National Service" as the Socialist understands it; it involves the collective ownership and management of the land, and the means of production, distribution, and exchange, and the abolition of the present competitive capitalist system.

In every country in the world are people who have grasped this ideal, and, fired by the vision of world-wide fraternity, are striving with eager hearts to bring it nearer. In countless little households, where the father toils early and late in the mine or workshop, and where the mother at home works and contrives to make ends meet on a scanty wage, all the brief hours of leisure and every rare holiday are spent in work for Socialism, and every penny that can be put by is given to the Cause. Socialists who, year in, year out, strive and make sacrifice for the Collectivist ideal, look with dismay upon this Government's schemes for what the Press calls "State Socialism" and "National Service."

The Government's schemes represent, in fact, not State Socialism, but State-aided capitalism. In controlling the mines, railways, and factories, the Government has preserved to the private owners the essential pivot of capitalism—the profits, which are largely paid out to those who have taken shares in the concern, but do no work, and are parasites robbing the workers of the value of their toil. To the workers, Government control has merely brought increased pressure, longer hours, fewer holidays, speeding up of machinery, a more inflexible discipline, and loss of freedom.

In the debate on the second reading of the Ministry of National Service Bill, Mr. Anderson said that true National Service must spring from the people. But the Government, which is wholly swayed by capitalist influence, is so much opposed to such genuine National Service that when certain members of the Clyde Workers' Committee were deported, Mr. Lloyd George actually excused this action on the ground that the deportees were agitating to secure that the men in the workshops should help to control the industry.

The demand that industry shall be nationalised, and that all the workers in it shall combine in its management is both just and practical. The mechanism for putting it into effect could speedily be devised. The workers in each factory could elect their committees of management; the factory committees could send delegates to district committees; and the district committees to a National Committee as occasion arose. As for the wages, some day we shall all be content to accept the same sum as our fellows, on the principle that each is entitled to enough, and enough is as good as a feast. We do not know whether the workers in the engineering trade or any other have yet arrived at that point, but undoubtedly the wage scale could be more safely and more justly left to the majority vote of the workers in the industry than to the individual employer or to a Government Department. The Government might safeguard itself by making a proviso that the aggregate of salaries and wages must not cost more than at present, except where authorised by the Government on account of the rising prices.

This is but dreaming however, for until the majority of people see the Socialist vision and force such action upon the Government this sort of thing will not happen. The industrial compulsion which the Government is preparing will mean the increased enslavement of the worker to the employer and the serious depression of wages and conditions. The minimum wage of 25s. a week for men is scandalously low, though too high for the Irish farmer, in whom the long tradition of privation has given rise to a fearsome meanness, and who has prevailed upon the British Government to refer the Irish pay to Wages Boards.

The women's minimum is not yet fixed. The rates of pay for women serving with the armies in France is, however, published, and it is absurdly low. Clerks and typists are to get 23s. to 27s. a week; shorthand typists 28s. to 32s.. The minimum wage for the National Union of Clerks is 35s. a week, and these women are compelled to live away from home and may be subjected to danger in some cases. Unskilled workers are to get 20s. a week; forewomen, 24s. to 30s. We understand that a very large number of women are wanted for France. We are concerned for the safety of these women in many ways. There is present with us the unpleasant memory of a certain official instruction regarding the supply of healthy women for the use of the troops in India. Moreover, there is the dark foreboding that if the War continues we shall at last see women carrying shells to the guns.

Under the compulsion that is approaching, masses of workers will find themselves compelled to work at rates far below those to which they have been accustomed. Others will find that their old rates are fixed by Government rules, whilst prices continue to rise.

The Militarist demand that industrial workers shall be paid at soldiers' rates and disciplined like the troops will be an accomplished fact unless the people prevent it.

The people can prevent Industrial Conscription if they will; but if they fail to protest, it will soon be law, for there are scarcely forty Members of of Parliament who will vote against it unless they receive a strong lead from their constituencies.

The steps which the Government is taking in regard to the food supply, like its plans for dealing with labour, are purely in the interests of the capitalist faction of which "The Times" is the organ. The submarine menace is to be met by importing less food from abroad, and by guaranteeing high prices to the farmer, in the hope that he may think it worth his while to grow more produce. The probabilities are that, owing to the withdrawal of labourers, the quantity of home-grown food will continue to decrease, whilst prices will rise enormously. To meet the serious shortage, compulsory rations will be resorted to. If bread and milk and the principal staples of working-class diet alone are rationed, whilst to those who can afford to buy them, the quantities of more expensive foods are unrestricted, the poor will suffer terribly, but the well-to-do will escape the pinch, as has been the case in Berlin. We must insist that if some foodstuffs are rationed, all foodstuffs must be rationed and distributed—cereals, fats, fruits, meats, and so on—according to their caloric value. It is also important that, if compulsory rationing is resorted to, congestion at depôts shall be avoided, and that there shall be house-to-house delivery of such commodities as milk and bread.

If National Service, for all on equal terms, for the benefit of all, and not of the few, might be established during the War, the Socialist dream of a joyous fraternity would seem to be in sight: But no man may wisely build his house upon a cesspool, and whilst men are waging a War for capitalistic objects abroad it were folly to imagine that they are willing to establish Socialism at home. They are not willing, and no clearer proof of their unwillingness it to be found than the refusal of adequate pensions to the men who have been broken in the War. Few, indeed, are the men who receive the pension that was promised, and the local Pensions Committees are now prohibited from supplementing the pensions of men who are admittedly unable to work and to whom the War Office has awarded no more than 4s. 8d. a week!

We are firmly opposed to the Government's scheme of National Service. We refuse to enrol as Volunteers, because we believe that to do so is to aid in the industrial enslavement of the people and to add to the long days of torture which our brothers are suffering in the trenches by prolonging the War. We refused to enrol as Volunteers now, and when the time comes for compulsion we shall maintain our stand.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

THE NATIONAL SERVICE BILL

On February 22nd the Home Secretary *moved the Second Reading of the Ministry of National Service Bill, which proposes "to make the best use of all persons, whether men or women able to work in any industry, occupation, or service."* It appoints a "Director General of National Service, who shall hold office during his Majesty's pleasure," and shall exercise any of the powers of other Government departments which the King may transfer to him by Order in Council or *any new powers which may be conferred on him by regulations under the Defence of the Realm Consolidation Act, 1914.*

This means that he may do anything which the Government may desire him to do, his powers are unlimited, and be it noted that *the Bill makes no distinction between men and women.*

Sir George Cave stated that it was intended to draw men and women from the non-essential to the essential industries, but not to close down entirely the non-essential industries, because if this were done both employers and employees would have to be compensated. From a certain date no new workers between the age of 17 and 61 would be allowed to be engaged in the non-essential industries, the Director General being the sole judge as to whether an industry is, or is not essential. *"At present"* this is to apply to "male labour only." Members of the Government speak of "male labour" and "female labour," of "man power" and "woman power" as though working people were merely a particular kind of machinery. Volunteers are to fill up forms obtained at the post office, send these to the Director, and await "the call." The transfer of labour will be effected by the Labour Exchanges, and the munition volunteer receives either the rate of pay of the district to which he goes or of the district from which he has gone, which ever is higher, but the National Service Volunteer will only get the ordinary rate of pay of the work he is called on to do in the district to which he is sent, or if he goes into agriculture he will be assured of a minimum wage of 25s. a week. If he is removed from his home he will get a subsistence allowance of 17s. 6d. a week, but as far as possible he will be kept in the district where he lives. In regard to the point that skilled agricultural labourers earning much less than 25s., would be expected to work with and even to teach raw recruits paid 25s., Sir George made no promise, but hoped that "before long" the payment of not less than 25s. a week to every agricultural labourer "may be found to be within the range of practical politics."

Sir George Cave explained that the Director was "taking power under the Defence of the Realm Act to call on employers to make returns of their employees between 17 and 61. No penalty for breach of a volunteer's agreement had been put in the Bill as the Government intended to try the voluntary system first. Several members had put down amendments indicating a fear that the Bill might be used for Industrial Conscription; to meet these Sir George Cave read the following pledge: "I am authorised by the Government to give to the House a most definite assurance that the Government will not use the powers of this Bill for the purpose of affecting the transfer of labour in any manner not sanctioned by existing legislation without coming to Parliament for specific authority. Moreover they will not ask for such authority unless and until they are convinced by experience that voluntary enrolment has failed to furnish the offers of labour adequate to the national needs."

REJECTION MOVED.

Mr. Molteno moved that "this House declines to agree to a Bill conferring upon the Director General of National Service an authority which may include without further legislative powers to impose Industrial Conscription upon the country." He said that if such powers were necessary, they should be conferred by the House of Commons, not by Orders in Council. He asked whether the power to limit or to suppress industries was to be a compulsory or a voluntary power. Sir George Cave's reply clearly revealed the sinister aspect of the Government's intentions which he had endeavoured to represent as quite harmless and without a trace of compulsion? He said: *"The power is not in the Bill, but any limitations in respect of labour in non-essential industries will be imposed by Orders in Council."*

FRENCH CHAMBER REJECTED SUCH A BILL.

Mr. Molteno protested that the Bill was a mere skeleton to be filled in, not by the House, but by Orders in Council and Regulations made under the Defence of the Realm Act, *such a proposal was made in almost similar terms to the French Chamber, the Chamber referred it to a Committee, the Committee unanimously reported against it and the Chamber refused to give the Government these powers.* The British Parliament should remain as free as any Parliament in the world. At present it was in the position of a mere board of directors, who from time to time woke up to find their manager dismissed by others.

IGNORING THE COMMON PEOPLE.

Mr. Edmund Harvey complained that there was nothing in the Bill to provide that the House of Commons should have an opportunity to express its opinion on the schedule of essential trades issued by the Director-General, and that there was no provision for labour organisations, industrial owners, or any other committee to be associated with the Director in deciding the fate of industry. In human relation to poor men and women mobility of labour meant tearing and rooting up people from their associations and work as though they were pegs or cards. If changes were to be made they should be made with the co-operation of those concerned, not imposed from above by a Napoleon of economic life. The people ought to be able to feel that through their own trade union they had an essential voice in National Service, and that that right was safeguarded by the Act of Parliament itself. Compulsory powers and penalties could be imposed by the Defence of the Realm Act though not in this Bill.

Sir Frederick Banbury—who is usually on the side of reaction, but who at any rate as an outside critic of the Government, whatever he might be inside, has some care for the traditional rights of the House of Commons, declared that no one knows what interpretation the Courts would put on the words in the Defence of the Realm Act conferring on the Government powers to take such steps as are necessary for the public safety. The Government chose to say these words, "give them power to do anything," and no private citizen could go to the highest court in the realm to ask for an interpretation of the words.

LIKE THE DERBY SCHEME.

Mr. Dillon said that the speeches that have been made by the Prime Minister and the Director of National Service, prove that: "This Bill is simply for the purpose of laying the path for a compulsory scheme, in order to enable Ministers to come down to the House in about a fortnight or three weeks—the interval in this case will be very much shorter than the interval between the Derby Scheme and Conscription, and to say, "We have done our best, we have tried the voluntary system and it has failed.

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A GREAT ACCOMPLISHMENT: By P. J. Dollan

The citizens of Glasgow, working through the medium of municipal co-operation, have just achieved a great accomplishment by handing over to the "common good" of the city a tramway system, said to be now worth six million pounds, absolutely free from debt and without its having cost the ratepayers one penny in the form of taxation. The system is foremost in this country for service and efficiency, and has been built up out of revenue. It is indeed a people's concern, as it has been financed, equipped and controlled by the people in the interests of the people, and is an interesting example of what the people can do for their own good when they have the will to do it. If the Glasgow ratepayers can run a tramway business better than private enterprise can run it, then the people can manage any business better than the profiteers.

The Glasgow tramways were municipalised in 1894, following an agitation by the Trades Council and local Socialists, who, after a very strenuous campaign, convinced the public that such an important community service as the tramways ought not to be exploited by private enterprise. Prior to 1894 the service, run primarily for the sake of profit, was inconvenient, irregular, and slow, while the employees were shockingly underpaid and overworked—a seven-day working week being the general rule. It was out of the discontent of the employees with their slavish wages and conditions that the demand arose for the municipalisation of the tramways both for the advantage of the workers and the citizens; and municipalisation has indeed proved a dual advantage. Thanks to organisation inside and outside the Council, the employees have been able to improve their wages and conditions to an extent that would have been impossible under private enterprise. The seven days working week was abolished, and before the War the hours per week had been reduced to 51, while the minimum wage had been raised from 20s. and even less to 27s. The general conditions were vastly bettered, and while far from ideal, are at least now 100 per cent. in advance of those prevailing before 1894.

Since the outbreak of War the working hours have been increased in number, the extra hours being paid for as overtime at time and half rates, while the minimum wages have been advanced to 31s., and other rates pro rata. Nearly 2,000 women are at present employed in the service as drivers, conductors, or cleaners, and all of them work on the same level as men and receive the same wages. Glasgow tramway service is probably the only public department in the country which observes economic equality between the sexes, and has found the practice beneficial rather than otherwise. The women seem to give their very best labour because they are regarded as the equals of the men. All employees get one week's holiday annually without loss of pay, and no worker loses wages because of employment stopped on account of inclement weather. Whenever an employee enters the service, he or she starts on full pay immediately, even although the task entered on by the newcomer requires a few days' tuition before it can be accomplished properly. Obviously, the tram workers have advanced considerably because of municipal employment and the improved standard set up in their case has had an effect in lifting up the wages and conditions of the labouring masses toiling for profiteers. The municipalisation of the tramways has effected quite a revolution in the social and economic status of the unskilled and semi-skilled thousands on the banks of the Clyde.

The citizens have also gained considerably by municipalisation. The tramways have been revolutionised both with regard to the service, speed and equipment. When they were first taken over as a civic concern they were dependent on horse-power, which continued to be the propelling force until 1901, when electric power was introduced, and the whole system altered and extended accordingly. Between 1901 and 1917 a total of £3,835,156 was spent on electrifying and extending the system (which at present covers nearly 100 miles of double track in and around the city), and all that expenditure has been repaid from revenue and the concern is now free from debt and with a balance of £119,055 on hand. All that money, as has been said, has been repaid out of revenue and in the record time of 16 years! Now that the system is free from debt it is expected to provide each year a surplus of from £200,000 to £250,000 for the "Common Good" fund, through which the money will be available for civic purposes considered to be for the benefit of the "common good" of all the citizens. On the strength of the estimated surplus, the Corporation, on behalf of the "Common Good" fund, have borrowed two million pounds to invest in the War Loan. If the annual profit of the tramways realises expectations it is surmised the loan will be paid off by 1925, by which time the "Common Good" fund will own investments yielding in interest £150,000 per annum, which money, coupled with the then surplus from the trams, will be used for public objects such as housing, to name one example. In 1925 there should be a Labour majority on the Council to see that the income of the "Common Good" fund is spent wisely and is not squandered by being applied to the reduction of rates.

The repayment of a debt of nearly four million pounds is not the only financial benefit which the city has gained from the tramways revenue. From the same source £645,000 has been, in 20 years' time, gifted to the "Common Good" fund and has been used for municipal purposes approved by the majority of the Council, including the purchase of parks, open spaces, and in effecting similar improvements. So that, thanks to municipal co-operation, the citizens of Glasgow are now the owners of a tramway concern worth six million pounds without its having cost them a penny in the way of rates for purchase, while in addition they have received in dividends £645,000. And who can estimate the sum of the thousandfold advantages the citizens have derived from the establishment of an efficient car service instead of an insufficient car service? The tramways system, although municipally owned, has no privileges, and is obliged to pay all the local and national charges which would be imposed on any ordinary business concern. The system is one of the largest "ratepayers" in the city paying over £80,000 in local rates last year and almost £40,000 in national taxes. It has also to bear the cost of maintaining the streets over which the cars run.

The concern is almost self-supporting for power and equipment, and the few services for which it is dependent on private enterprise are gradually being taken over. The Labour members of the Council attend to that. All the cars used in the service are built and repaired in the departmental workshops, which are considered first-rate establishments. Even the repairing of the employees' uniforms is done by tailors employed by the department. The service, so far as travelling facilities are concerned, is admitted to be the best in this country, while the fares are the cheapest. The average fare per mile is .44d., and the most popular fare is the ½d. one, which is the backbone of the revenue and generally enables the passenger to travel 1¼ miles. Children under five years, of course, travel free, while those between five and 14 years pay half-fare. There are no "workmen's" fares, and therefore no class distinctions on the cars, which are the same for the rich as for the poor. The wealthy cannot monopolise or corner travelling facilities in Glasgow as they do on the privately-owned railways. The tramways are really democratically owned and are at the service of all the citizens, irrespective of class, and have helped to further democracy within the community by breaking down class barriers in travelling.

Last, but not least, the tramways have been at the service of the people all through the War without any increase in charges. The pre-War rates have been maintained, even although working costs, wages, and other charges have mounted up considerably, while last year over £80,000 was paid in extra allowances to the dependants of men in the Army and Navy.

The War has not been exploited by the owners of the tramways as a means to bigger profits. Why? Because the people are the owners and would not tolerate exploitation. If the ownership of tramways by the people can keep down fares, then it is obvious that the ownership of other services by the people would keep down prices. What the citizens of Glasgow have done to improve and cheapen tram service can be done by the people in regard to every other service. Therefore let us press on with the work of real national importance, which is: the substitution of democratic ownership and control for profiteering. If that were done there would be no increase of 89 per cent. in prices.

QUESTIONS OF THE DAY

WOMEN AS SOLICITORS

Lord Buckmaster's Bill providing that a woman shall not be disqualified by sex or marriage from practising as a solicitor was read a second time in the Lords on Tuesday. The Lord Chancellor said he did not think women "should take part in a profession that was incompatible with the proper functions of woman as the head of a home and mother of a family." What about T.N.T. and all the other dangerous work women are called on to do? We welcome this Bill as a step in the right direction.

A MISTAKE

The following resolution, signed by 28 organisations, has been sent to Mr. Bonar Law:—"That we, representing the undersigned societies, recognising that a Bill based on the recommendations of the Speaker's Conference will confer the suffrage upon women, though not upon the terms for which we stand, urge the Government to introduce such a Bill without delay, provided that it contains as an integral part provisions for the enfranchisement of women." In our view this resolution is exceedingly weak. We do not desire to see a Bill introduced which shall confer the franchise upon women on the lines suggested by the Speaker's Conference, with the age limit of 30 or 35 and a property qualification. We desire a Franchise Bill which shall give a vote to every adult woman.

ELECTORIAL REFORM

The Speaker is said to have approached Mr. Asquith on the subject of Electoral Reform. Mr. Asquith will in all probability move a general resolution thanking the Speaker, and calling on the Government to introduce legislation on the lines of the report of the Electoral Reform Committee.

* * * *

The American States of North Dakota and Ohio have granted Womanhood Suffrage.

PEACE MOVEMENT

Dr. Franz Mehring, the Socialist "Minority" candidate has been elected by an overwhelming majority of the electoral body of Potsdam to the Prussian Diet.

* * * *

At a Labour Conference in Liverpool, Rev. Herbert Dunnico, of the Peace Negotiations Committee, was selected as candidate to contest the West Derby Parliamentary constituency in the Labour interest.

* * * *

Eighteen members of the Socialist Minority voted against the German War Credits on February 23rd. The Socialists in the British Parliament have not yet got thus far. Herr Ledebour compared the German U-boat warfare and the British plan of starvation by blockade, declaring that the one corresponded as little to the laws of humanity as the other.

WATCH THIS!

An Army Order has been issued containing a Royal Warrant authorising, "as a temporary measure," the formation of a "Labour Corps," with rules of regimental pay for officers, non-commissioned officers, and men, as laid down in the Royal Warrant of December 1st, 1914, for infantry of the line.

HOW THEY DEAL WITH CONSCRIPTIONISTS IN AUSTRALIA

Conscription is not popular in New South Wales. The State Political Labour Party has expelled 18 of its members, including the Premier, the Minister for Lands, the Minister for Public Instruction, the Attorney-General and the Minister for Labour, in consequence of the attitude which they have taken up towards the late conscription campaign. The letter from the Secretary to the expelled members reads as follows:—

"Sir,—I am directed to inform you that at the last meeting of the executive your endorsement as the selected Labour candidate for ———— was withdrawn, and a motion of expulsion from the Labour movement was carried against you, in accordance with the resolution re conscription, as passed by the 1916 annual conference:

(a) Your refusal to conform to the resolution;

(b) Your disloyalty to the executive and the movement in advocating conscription in the face of the mandate of the movement as expressed by the conference and the executive.

—From the "Australian Worker," 9/11/16.

Women mail drivers are to receive 30s. for a 72-hour week. Besides being a dangerous job, it has always been regarded as a man's job. What about a man's pay?

* * * *

The Shop Assistants' Union weekly reports show that women are joining the Union in large numbers: in the week ending February 3rd, 119 new women members were ratified, and 80 men.

YOU MUST NOT MISS THESE!

NATIONAL DEFENCE: A Study in Militarism. By J. RAMSAY MACDONALD, M.P. Cr. 8vo. 2/6 net.

A discussion of the problem of National Defence and International Peace. The author discusses views which are misunderstood and misrepresented, but which closer examination shows to be of utmost importance.

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An appeal to the comfortable classes, the Churches and the working people.

MY EXPERIENCES ON THREE FRONTS. By SISTER MARTIN-NICHOLSON. Cr. 8vo. 4/6 net.

"One of the most poignant and powerful stories of the war."—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

THE FLOGGING CRAZE: A Statement of the case against Corporal Punishment. By HENRY S. SALT. with a Foreword by Sir GEORGE GREENWOOD. Cr. 8vo. 2/6 net.

"We commend Mr. Salt's book to all who wish to make a well-informed attack upon the flogging craze."—*Labour Leader.*

WOMEN AND THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND. By A. MAUDE ROYDEN. Cr. 8vo paper. 3d. net.

Describing the tendencies which are steadily driving modern women out of the Churches.

London: George Allen & Unwin, Ltd.
40 MUSEUM STREET, W.C.

HOUSEWIFE'S PLAINT—(Continued from Front Page).

of her health breaking down altogether, when the last state will be worse than the first.

A 'bus conductor, medically unfit for the Army, was telling on one occasion how very ill he felt at his work. He was advised to stop at home for a couple of days to save himself from breaking down altogether. He said: "I can't do that; I don't get paid if I don't work, and you can't hear a child ask for bread. I can stand anything but that. And look at the prices. No, I mustn't lay up—can't afford it." It was pointed out to him that he might die, and he said he wished he were dead, as there was absolutely nothing to look forward to but that. Anyhow, he would work until he dropped, as he could not stay at home and see his children and wife hungry. One left him wishing that *human life as it is* could be portrayed in the Press, instead of as at present, something to provide sensational headlines to sell the papers. It must always be remembered that the struggle to live is hardest for the old-age pensioner, the wife whose husband is either a small wage-earner, a soldier, or a sailor, and whose children are still at school; the single woman living in one room, working at machine work, at which it is impossible to earn enough to live on, and the widow with young children to support. The homes where it is easiest are where the children are all grown up and paying for their own keep, or where the bread-winner is one of those few War-workers who are supposed to earn so much. These homes, I contend, are in the minority, and to counterbalance them we are now faced with the insufficiently pensioned soldiers, of whom there are thousands.

The real position is therefore a very serious one from the workers' point of view.

Here is a list of some of the things bought for husband and wife and four children each week in a working-class home:—

	Present Price	Pre-War	Difference
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Bread, 14 loaves	6 1½	2 11	3 1½
Tea, ¼ lb.	1 2	8	6
Sugar, 4 lbs.	1 10	7	1 3
Butter, ½ lb.	6½	3	3½
Margarine, 1 lb.	9	6	3
Jam, 2 lbs.	1 0	5½	6½
Potatoes, 14 lbs.	1 9	7	1 2
Greens and Pot Herbs	2 6	1 3	1 3
1 Tin Milk	8½	3½	4½
Cow's Milk, ½ pint daily	10½	7	3½
Meat Dripping and Suet	7 0	3 6	3 6
Flour, 1 quartern	11	5½	5½
Gas	2 6	1 10	8
Coal, ¼ cwt.	2 0	1 2	10
Wood, Soap, Starch, Soda, and Blue	9	6	3
Paraffin, 1 qt.	3½	1½	1½
Relishes for Husband's Teas	1 9	10½	10½
Rice and Barley	4½	3	1½
Matches, ½ doz.	4	0½	3½
	33 2	16 10½	16 3½

C. DRAKE.

MRS. WALKER ARRESTED IN HYDE PARK

Evidently the authorities are growing concerned at the headway which is being made by the Peace movement.

On Saturday, February 24th, an inspector from Cannon Row called at 400 Old Ford Road, and asked for Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, whom he understood was to speak in Hyde Park next day. He was told that Miss Pankhurst was in Lancashire. He asked whether the Workers' Suffrage Federation would be holding a peace meeting in Hyde Park, and was told that Mrs. Walker would address a meeting on Adult Suffrage, but that she undoubtedly would have something to say on Peace and War. Also that we had never had any disturbances at our weekly meetings in Hyde Park.

On Sunday Mrs. Walker spoke in the Park to a crowd of 500 or 600; there was no heckling or interruptions. Mrs. Walker was applauded by the audience, but as soon as she stepped from the platform she was arrested; she called to the crowd, "Now I must go to the station," and there were cries of "Shame."

On Monday, February 26th, Mrs. Walker's case came up at Marlborough Street Police Court before Mr. Denman.

Police Constable 551A said that Mrs. Walker began her speech by ridiculing various Cabinet Ministers, and asked why should we spend £6,000,000 a day on the War while little children in East London were dying of hunger? There were several interruptions. She also asked why should we send mothers' sons to murder other mothers' sons? "Our class in Germany was just as good as we are. What we want is peace. An Army General told me the other day that the only way to end the War was by having peace. It is up to us workers to end the War." Here there were interruptions. Mrs. Walker advised the men in the crowd to see Members of Parliament get them to press for peace. The crowd became hostile, and I took her in charge.

Mrs. Walker denied this, and proceeded with her cross-examination, and afterwards called three witnesses, each of whom testified to the orderly character of the meeting. Mr. Denman interrupted several times very rudely, and with a great display of irritation. Finally, when Mrs. Walker asked: "What was the feeling of the crowd when I was arrested?" Mr. Denman said: "You need not answer; it has nothing to do with it.

Mrs. Ellis, the witness, answered: "Very sympathetic."

Mrs. Walker: What did I say to the constable? Did I use insulting language?

Mr. Denman: "The question of whether the language was insulting rests with me. I am satisfied at the present time that you acted so unwisely that it was likely to lead to a breach of the peace, and other things. If you take such an opposite line to 999 people out of 1,000 you are likely to be badly treated. You were arrested for your own protection. I bind you over in £5 not to repeat your conduct for twelve months."

A cry from a woman in Court: "It is certainly high time that women had the vote!"

A RUSSIAN MUTINY

"DARK CLOUDS ARE GATHERING OVER THE CENTRAL EMPIRES."

"Dark clouds are gathering over the Central Empires." Under this heading the "Daily Chronicle" gave a graphic description of food riots, strikes, and, most significant of all, refusal in some cases on the part of the military to disperse the rioters. Dark clouds are also gathering over another Empire—that of Great Britain's ally, Russia.

The scene is Petrograd. Our information comes from "The Social Democrat," a Russian newspaper published in Geneva, December 30th, 1916. In the middle of October, 1916, most of the factories and workshops were flooded with a leaflet addressed to the proletariat of Petrograd. It dealt with the horrors of this War of attrition with "Czar" famine holding the world in its grip, and it invited the workers to make War against War.

Although the leaflet contained no invitation to strike, meetings were held in many factories, and the first to strike were the workers at Renaud, on the Viborg side of the Neva. On October 17th, near the "New Lessner" Works, there was a collision between police and workmen. This happened opposite the barracks of the 181st newly-formed reserve regiment, destined to go to the front on October 26th. The following is an account by a soldier who participated in the melée.

"Someone was being arrested; he fired and wounded a constable. Other constables arrived on the scene and were received with a volley of stones from the soldiers, who subsequently broke down the barriers surrounding the barracks and streamed into the street. Two trams were overturned, a captain of the regiment made a revolutionary speech. When the Commander of the regiment arrived in a motor car stones were thrown and he was wounded in the head, and he and several officers had to take refuge in a factory. It is said that only a portion of the regiment came out, and that many were kept under lock and key. Another battalion of the same regiment (600 strong) was called out, but this regiment also declared that nothing would induce it to shoot on the crowd. Three times the commanding officer called fire—the answer was the lowering of the rifles. Cossacks were called who also refused to fire (perhaps out of fear of the 600 armed men). Soldiers and workmen mingled, the former beseeching the latter to continue the strike. Some soldiers refused to return to the barracks, and about ten were arrested. The others were locked up and all communication between different battalions was stopped.

"The Brigadier-General arrived and held council with the officers. A secret order was issued—to shoot down without mercy at the least sign of disorders. There is a rumour that the police force is being instructed in the use of machine guns. The feeling among the soldiers is so strong that even in the barracks in the presence of the authorities the day after the disturbance a soldier came forward encouraged by the others and told the officer that soldiers were treated like convicts and badly fed, exclaiming 'if it is thus here what will it be at the front, this is not war but slaughter.'

"Among the factories where strikes took place were three-fourths of all factories on the Viborg Side, three to four days; on Vassili Ostrov, Siemens-Schukert; Pootiloff in the Narva district; the New Lessner was closed. There were no demands for better conditions, all the strikes *were protests against the war*. The Samsomiev Quay was thronged with people singing 'Arise ye Workers' and shouting 'Down with the War.' On Thursday and Friday the strikers went back to work. A new leaflet appeared and fresh strikes broke out on October 25th as a protest against the treatment meted out to the 181st Regiment. According to different versions, —38, 100, 130—soldiers are to be court-martialled. Strikers parade the streets shouting 'Down with the War,' 'Down with Capital Punishment.'"

And yet we are asked to believe that only the Pro-Germans in Russia want Peace!

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NATIONAL SERVICE BILL (Continued from Page 686.)

We have not got the requisite number of men, and we must have recourse to compulsion." He asked whether the Ministry of National Service was to be "under the heel of the War Office." When Mr. Asquith was Prime Minister a friend of Mr. Dillon had gone to the War Office, to ask for the fulfilment of a pledge made by Mr. Asquith to Mr. Redmond the day before. The Adjutant-General had replied: "I would have you know that we in this War Office take no notice of such promises. These promises are made by Ministers to pass Bills, but the War Office never takes the smallest notice of them." Mr. Dillon believed that the foundation of serious trouble would be laid if it was attempted to handle the workers of England by industrial conscription, and "You will have more than you bargained for if you attempt to extend the compulsion of labour to Ireland."

"RATHER A MEAN TRANSACTION."

Mr. Percy Harris said that to avoid paying compensation by diverting labour from industries, instead of frankly closing them down, would be "rather a mean transaction." He desired that members of the Volunteer force should be "considered as favoured citizens and singled out for special treatment. This is a dangerous proposition which will need to be resisted if it goes any furhter.

WILL VOLUNTEERS BE USED AS STRIKE BREAKERS?

Mr. Pringle pointed out that the Home Secretary had admitted that the Government's proposals were an imitation of the Prussian auxiliary service. He said that to allow all industries to be run by a single man without check or appeal was a monstrous proposition. The agricultural labourers of Berwickshire and part of Roxburgh were now striking for 35s. a week—would this Bill entitle the Director of National service to draft in volunteers at 25s. to break the strike? Mr. J. H. Thomas also asked whether if agricultural labourers paid less than 25s. were striking for a higher wage, National Volunteers would be drafted in till the strike was broken.

Sir George Cave evaded this point in his reply, but on Mr. Thomas again pressing for an answer he said that the intention was not to transfer labour on account of trade disputes, but "to take the place of labour drawn upon for military or national reasons."

We fear that the Government will not be slow to justify strike breaking for "national reasons." This answer is merely an evasion.

Colonel Seely urged that the objections to the industrial conscription of men are grave and that they are still more grave in the case of women." Industrial conscription "would meet with the sternest and bitterest opposition from the working classes." He wished to enter "a protest of the gravest and most serious kind" against industrial conscription.

A PARTIAL CONCESSION.

Sir George Cave, in replying to the debate which was more generally hostile to the Government than any that has taken place since the War, promised to embody in the Bill the pledge not to introduce compulsion without further legislation.

Sir W. Essex, who desires Industrial Conscription, objected to the age limit of 61: he had seen men of 80 working on the land.

WHAT LLOYD GEORGE WANTS.

Mr. W. C. Anderson said that as 6,000,000 workers had been withdrawn from industry for the Army and Navy and Munition work, there was no longer an unlimited reservoir to draw from.

Mr. Lloyd George and others who believe in compulsion would use the failure to work a miracle as a means of attaining their ends: if the number of recruits were small it would be said that the number was so small that compulsion was necessary; if the number were large it would be said that practically all had come in and the few shirkers ought not to be left out. He quoted Lloyd George's speech in Manchester on June 3rd: "The Voluntary Army . . . their time, their movements, their direction, the very locality where they operate are chosen for them by the officers of the State. Their very lives are at the disposal of the State . . . that is what a Voluntary Army in a military sense means. . . . I am sorry it does not mean that industrially." Mr. Anderson reminded the House that unless the land and capital of the country were taken out of private hands and vested in the State, industrial compulsion would involve compulsion to work for other men's private profits—and during this War very large profits. Compulsion on a large scale was impossible: when 200,000 Welsh miners on strike had been ordered back to work by the Government, the men did not go back, but three or four Cabinet Ministers took a special train to Wales and conceded the men's terms.

BROKEN PLEDGES.

Pledges under the Military Service Act in regard to the unfit, in regard to boys, men of 41, married men, widows' sons, and religious and moral objectors had all been broken; indeed the whole road to compulsion was strewn with broken pledges. Already the compulsion of workmen had been carried to very great lengths under the Military Service Act. The "Daily Telegraph" of February 9th reported the military representative of the Harrow Tribunal as stating that he had notified coal merchants to send him notice of incivility by exempted carmen and had promised to lose no time in reviewing the certificates of these men. A volunteer had committed suicide because his employer had taunted him with being a "damned substitute." Was the employer to be reported for cruelty? At West Ham exemptions were given on condition of enrolling under this so-called voluntary scheme.

WHY NOT CONSCRIBE LAND AND CAPITAL?

The Government was far more ready to conscribe life and labour than property. It was said that the farmers were on strike against the potato price, but the Government did not dream of conscribing either the farmer or his potatoes: they sent him a message to say he should have a £1 more per ton. National Service should be a genuine thing springing from and accepted by the people, not super-imposed from Whitehall. He quoted Mr. Asquith's statement in regard to industrial compulsion: "I shall absolutely resist it to the last."

LANCASHIRE THREATENED.

Mr. Denniss said that when he looked at the lists of essential trades he was horrified to find that under the heading of "Textile" the cotton trade was left out. He urged that the cotton exports of this country represent nearly one-third of the total exports. He asked the Home Secretary why the cotton trade was not included amongst essential industries. Sir George Cave replied: "I cannot do that." Unless the decision is reversed, the prospect before Lancashire is a very dark one, untold misery and suffering may be looked for.

AMENDMENT WITHDRAWN.

Mr. Molteno withdrew his amendment, though he stated that he was not entirely satisfied with the latest pledge.

So the Bill was read a second time unchallenged. It is a disgrace to the British Parliament that such a thing has happened!

PARLIAMENT AS WE SEE IT

PACIFIST PROTESTS.

February 20th.—On the third reading of the Consolidated Fund Bill Mr. Ponsonby pointed out that "we entered this war for the protection of small nationalities, and we seem to be prosecuting the war now for the extension of large Empires." The continuation of the War "does not only punish the people of Germany, but those of France, of Russia, of Italy, and of this country also."

* * * *

Mr. Trevelyan urged that if separate nationalities are to be independent "no conceivable argument exists against the independence of Ireland and Finland." The attitude of the Germans towards peace was shown by a meeting in Frankfort, where 30,000 people attended demanding "Food and Peace."

* * * *

Mr. Snowden denounced the War, which has never been "a people's War." The whittling away of the liberties of the people and freedom of speech was done to prevent people from knowing the truth. As a flagrant example of the change of front of some of our leaders, he quoted from a speech which Mr. Lloyd George made in the Queen's Hall in 1908:—". . . Here is Germany, in the middle of Europe, with France and Russia on either side, and with a combination of their armies greater than hers. Suppose we had here a possible combination which lay us open to invasion—suppose Germany and France, or Germany and Russia, or Germany and Austria, had fleets which, in combination, would be stronger than ours, would we not be frightened? Would we not arm? Of course we should." As for the atrocities, Mr. Snowden said we could say nothing because of past actions, and recalled Lord Fisher's statement of 1910:—"If I am in command when war breaks out, I shall issue as my orders: The essence of war is violence. Moderation in war is imbecility. Hit first, hit hard, and hit anywhere."

WAR POLICY.

Mr. Bonar Law could see no method by which we could save the liberties of our country except by fighting for them. The Germans must be punished for the crimes they had committed. He evidently overlooks the fact that people in glass houses should not throw stones.

* * * *

Mr. Buxton said the punishment of Germany by taking away her colonies was a very serious step. The whole War was based on the German lack of Colonial possessions. He urged that the result of the Rossendale election pointed to a change of public feeling, the candidate was "peculiarly unpopular," yet he polled a third of the votes!

OUTHWAITE ON THE CAUSES OF THE WAR.

Mr. Outhwaite brought the House back to remembrance of the trenches by asserting that the military authorities were preparing for a million casualties in the spring offensive. He said that when people ceased to look at the War merely from the standpoint of the invasion of Belgium, and realised that it was a struggle of contending Empires for the hegemony of the East, they developed a less vindictive point of view. In the Russo-Japanese War he, as an Australian, had not sided with the Japanese, like the British, who thought that to weaken Russia was to safeguard India: he had held that it was not right to turn back Russia, who had performed the great civilising action of making a railway right across Asia to Port Arthur. When Japan had defeated Russian expansion in China, Russia had turned her attention to the Near East, endeavouring to turn Turkey out of Europe to secure Constantinople and dismember Austria. He thought the War had been precipitated by Russia because the German desire of expansion had taken the form of the Berlin to Bagdad railway, and because Britain was said to be about to support Germany in getting concessions from Turkey. This would be a barrier to the ambitions of Russia. Germany, Austria and Russia were all prepared to fight out the issue of the Near East. The Allies were fighting to dismember the Austro-Hungarian Empire in order that the Russian position in Constantinople might be secured. When Greece had offered to support the Allies in 1915, Russia had objected, saying that no Greek army should come within 50 miles of Constantinople in case Greece should set up a rival claim to the city. The Turks only came into the War because Russia was aiming at their capital.

* * * *

February 21st.—Mr. Chamberlain said that he alone will actually represent India at the Imperial Conference: the Indian representative will merely accompany him.

It is strange to think of narrowly conventional, unimaginative Mr. Chamberlain, with his eye-glass and his top-hat, and his mind stuck full of the Western capitalist's conceit and prejudices representing the ascetic philosophers and the half-starved peasantry of India!

NAVY ESTIMATES.

Sir Edward Carson, in presenting the Naval Estimates, said that the Navy numbered 140,000 men at the outbreak of the War, that the number was 300,000 last year, and is now to be brought up to 400,000. He admitted that the submarine menace is "grave" and "serious," and that "no magic remedy exists or probably will exist," and that the tonnage lost in December was 223,322, in January 198,233, and the first 18 days of February 304,596. Sir Edward Carson's speech and the general tone of the debate revealed a realisation of the fact that food ships are more essential than battleships.

CHURCHILL ON THE WATCH.

Mr. Winston Churchill, who has a wonderful facility for forgetting the past when it is convenient to do so, made a long speech, the bulk of which was to no particular effect unless to remind the public that he has been First Lord of the Admiralty. He took credit to himself for criticising the Admiralty last year, and said that the expedients for coping with the submarine menace now being adopted ought to have been introduced at the beginning of 1916. But, as Commander Bellairs remarked, Mr. Churchill's complaints last year were all that the Navy was not building enough big battleships. He again urged that Lord Fisher should be "more effectively associated with the conduct of naval affairs," and ended with what might be interpreted to be a vindication of Sir Edward Grey. Mr. Churchill is purely a politician; he appears to be watching to see which way the cat will jump.

* * * *

February 22nd.—Major Newman complained that Irish Republicans escorted Count Plunkett through the streets of Dublin in procession after his election at Roscommon. He wanted this sort of thing stopped in future.

WOMEN MUNITION WORKERS.

On the vote for the Ministry of Munitions, Mr. W. C. Anderson referred to the case of the seven munition girls who were brought up at the Central London Tribunal for refusing to work on C.E. He said that women who have volunteered to do certain work ought not to be compelled against their will to do other work, which was dangerous and for which they had not volunteered. Mr. Kellaway, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Munitions, replied that this was not a practical proposition. Why not?

Mr. Anderson also protested that the Ministry of Munitions is still paying sweated wages to women, and urged that there should be a minimum wage of 6d. an hour. Mr. Kellaway replied that only 27,000 women employed under the Ministry are outside the wages scale fixed by the Ministry. He hoped to bring in most of that 27,000 in time, but he could not agree to 6d. an hour. "This is a practical world," he said, "and we are not dealing with our own money." He explained that before the War the average time rate was 12s. a week: now it is 18s., and 18s. is the lowest paid under the Order, the average being 20s.; women on piecework get 33⅓ per cent. above 20s.

The increase in the cost of living has therefore practically left the wages at the pre-War level.

We wish that Mr. Anderson would make up his mind to ask for women the same minimum that is granted to the men.

THE PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT.

February 23rd.—Mr. Lloyd George stated that winning the War for the Allies depended on solving the tonnage problem. Whenever he wants anything done he says the War will not be won unless it is done. To defeat the submarine menace—"the grimmest menace that ever threatened a country's life"—he says it is necessary to reduce the quantity of food and other imports. The woods and forests of this country and of France are to be cut down for pit props and for use in the trenches. From somewhere or other more men are to be found to bring up more iron ore from British mines. The manufacture of beer is to be reduced to 10,000 barrels this year. Apples, tomatoes, tea, coffee, and mineral waters are to be prohibited; canned salmon—the working class luxury—is to be cut down by 50 per cent.; oranges, bananas, grapes, nuts, meat, feeding stuffs, and so on, 75 per cent. After these announcements Mr. Lloyd George's expressions of deep regret at considerably reducing the import of articles of luxury from France seemed rather out of place. Fifty per cent. of paper and paper materials is to come in still because the newspapers are patriotic—an ominous reason!

One wonders why agricultural machinery should be on the prohibited list when the great need is said to be for increased agricultural produce?—and why preparations containing sugar used for food, except condensed milk, should also be on the list, when sugar is so scarce. The answer is probably connected with the magic words, "Tariff Reform." To stimulate production in this country, a minimum wage of 25s. is to be guaranteed to the agricultural labourer in England and a wage fixed by Wages Boards in Ireland. Mr. Lloyd George evidently forgets that prices have risen since War was declared! The farmer is to be guaranteed minimum prices for wheat, oats, and other produce. For 1917, he is to get at least 60s. a quarter, at least 55s. in 1918, and at least 45s. in 1920, 1921, and 1922. Before the War the price was 34s. 11d. a quarter! Mr. Lloyd George is sure that if only the farmers can be helped to forget their "plough fright" they can even now increase the food of this country "by hundreds of tons this year."

QUOTING CARSON AGAINST LLOYD GEORGE.

Mr. Mason urged that there should be no panic legislation, and quoted Sir Edward Carson, who the day before said that only 134 ships had been lost during the time in which 12,000 ships went in and out of our ports.

MR. RUNCIMAN'S CRITICISMS.

Mr. Runciman said that the provision of adequate labour would do more to stimulate production than fixed prices. In 1915 there were half a million more wheat-bearing acres than in 1914, but in 1916, though prices had risen considerably, the acreage had fallen by a quarter of a million because of the scarcity of labour. It was too late to start ploughing with any degree of success for this season. In the North, where wages were comparatively high, farmers had long ago taken to rearing stock instead of growing wheat, in order to dispense with their labourers, they would not plough up their grass lands unless compelled. 25s. to the labourer was "not a very great guarantee" at present prices, and in any case it was not a *quid pro quo* for the guaarantee given to the farmer by the State: the proper return for the farmer to make was greater production and better farming. What wages were the women to get, was it to be 18s. the wage now offered to them by the Board of Agriculture. Mr. Runciman did not ask for equal pay, but we do!

WARDLE AND WAGES.

Mr. Wardle also asked for a statement on women's wages, and asked whether men would go back to the land for 25s.

As a Labour representative, one expects him not to leave the matter in doubt, but to say that such wages will not do!

* * * *

Captain Bathurst, in reply to questions regarding fixing food prices, stated that the Food Controller would take "drastic action" in the event of increased prices. Prices are constantly increasing. Why not take action at once?

THE SEXUAL CRIMES BILL.

February 26th.—In reply to a request of Mr. Glyn Jones, Mr. Bonar Law stated that the Bill to be introduced by the Local Government Board and the Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill will be considered by a Grand Committee. The subject is regarded as unsuitable for discussion in the House! Women especially should watch this Bill and send amendments to Members of Parliament.

ARRESTS IN IRELAND.

Mr. Dillon moved the adjournment of the House with the intention of clearing the air in respect to the Irish arrests. He dwelt on the grave injustice of making no charge and having no trial. The line of action of the present regime recalled all the incidents of bygone rule in Ireland—it was a put up thing to influence opinion adversely in view of the proposed Irish Debate. The incident of court-martialling three young men for singing songs in a private hall—"Easter Week," "Ireland a Nation Once Again," etc.—brought ridicule on the Government. His speech, besides the recapitulation of England's injustices to Ireland, urged a definite reply to the question: "Who recommended the arrest of these men?" Mr. Mr. Scanlan followed suit, and also pointed out the blatant hypocrisy of England in saying she stands for the liberty and rights of small nationalities.

Mr. Duke made a most successful evasion of the chief point. He boasted of kind-heartedness in freeing these and other men before Christmas. Now, however, by the power of the Defence of the Realm Regulation No. 55, authorities may arrest where there is suspicion. In the case of these recent arrests he gave vague hints at "crimes" which were being prevented by this precaution. It all sounded as though he and his confederates thought that because there was a rebellion last Easter, of necessity a similar plot was now afoot.

THE
WORKERS' SUFFRAGE FEDERATION

To secure Human Suffrage, namely, a Vote for every Woman and Man of full age, and to win Social and Economic Freedom for the People.

Entrance Fee ... ... 1d.

Minimum Subscription... 1d. a month

I wish to become a Member of the W.S.F. and enclose.....subscription and entrance fee for.....months.

***Name*.....**

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WHAT'S ON?

W.S.F. FIXTURES

FRIDAY, MARCH 2nd.
Cardigan Road and Tredegar Road, Bow, 12 (noon), Mrs. Bouvier.
SATURDAY, MARCH 3rd.
Roman Road, Armagh Road, 3 p.m., Rev. H. Chalmers, Mrs. Boyce.
Chandos Hall, 3.30 p.m., At Home.
SUNDAY, MARCH 4th.
Osborn Street, 11.30 a.m., Miss Price.
Hyde Park, 3 p.m., Mrs. Cressall.
Cannon Street Road, 3 p.m., Mr. Cant.
Victoria Park, 3 p.m., Peace Meeting.
Bow Women's Hall, 6 p.m., Public Meeting.
MONDAY, MARCH 5th.
Bromley District, 11.30 a.m.—1 p.m., Miss Price.
TUESDAY, MARCH 6th.
Bromley District, 11.30 a.m.—1 p.m., Miss Price, Miss Beamish.
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7th.
53 St. Leonard's Street, Bromley, 2 p.m., Miss Price.
Poplar Women's Hall, 8.15 p.m., Lecture, Mr. John Scurr; Discussion.
THURSDAY, MARCH 8th.
Bromley District, 2 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier.
FRIDAY, MARCH 9th.
Bromley District, 11.30 a.m., Mrs. Bouvier.
Poplar Women's Hall, 3 p.m., Miss Lynch.
SATURDAY, MARCH 10th.
Bromley District, 2—3.30 p.m., Mrs. Boyce, Miss Price.
Chandos Hall, 3.30 p.m., At Home.
SUNDAY, MARCH 11th.
Hyde Park, 3 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier.
Victoria Park, 3 p.m., Peace Meeting.
Bow Women's Hall, 6 p.m., Public Meeting.

INDOOR

CHANDOS HALL "AT HOME," 21a Maiden Lane (off Bedford Street, Strand). To-day 3.30 p.m., Mrs. K. Outhwaite, "The Restoration of the Land"; Mr. E. J. Smith, "Can Peace be Enforced?" Chair, Miss Lynch. March 10th, Miss Margaret Hodge, "The Position of Women in the Industrial World During the Last Two Centuries"; Mr. Maurice Hann, "The Evils of Shop Life." Chair, Miss Sylvia Pankhurst.

BOW WOMEN'S HALL, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow.—To-morrow (Sunday), 6 p.m., Mr. Edward Fuller, "Within Prison Walls"; Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, "The Present Outlook"; Miss Dorothy Matthews will give a recital from Oscar Wilde's "Ballad of Reading Gaol." March 11th, Mrs. Bessie Ward, "The Relation of Conscription to Women"; Mr. L. Ginnell, M.P., "Irish Aspirations." Chair, Miss M. O'Callaghan.

Friends and supporters will be pleased to hear that improved heating arrangements have been made at the Bow Women's Hall.

Meeting of Central Branch, March 21st, at 7 p.m., will be held at 29b Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.

POPLAR WOMEN'S HALL, 20 Railway St., Poplar (opposite South Bromley Station, N.L.R.).—Wednesday, March 7th, at 8.15 p.m., Mr. John Scurr will lecture.

Admission free. All are welcome!

PROVINCES

LEICESTER

Special Branch meeting will be held at 88, Rutland Street, on Monday, March 12th, 7 p.m., to elect a new Secretary for the branch and discuss Annual Conference business, etc. Speaker, Miss P. Lynch.

Birmingham Priory Rooms, Upper Priory, Saturday, March 17th, 3 p.m., Miss Sylvia Pankhurst and Miss Margaret Haly.

OTHER ORGANISATIONS

To-morrow, Sunday, 8.15 p.m., at Kingsley Hall, Bow, Miss Maude Royden will speak. Bar and open discussion 9.30 p.m.

All Societies are cordially invited to send in notices of forthcoming events for our "What's On" column. Fee, 1d. per word.

PEACE MEETING
Victoria Park, To-Morrow
SUNDAY, 3 p.m.

Speaker, Miss WILSON WILSON.

Chair, Miss LYNCH.

PEACE DEMONSTRATION POSTPONED FROM APRIL 1st TILL SUNDAY, APRIL 15th.

W.S.F. BRANCHES

ARE YOU AN ACTIVE WORKING MEMBER?

LONDON

BARKING.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Langford, Ailsa Craig, 97 Essex Road.

BOW.—400 Old Ford Road, E. Hon. Secretary: Miss Stevens. Branch meetings will be held every second and fourth Monday. DREADNOUGHT sales week ending February 24th, 578; Miss Harriet, 212; Miss O'Brien, 120; Miss Beamish, 70; Miss Smyth, 48; Miss Mackay, 37; Mrs. Farrall, 18.

BROMLEY.—53 St. Leonard's Street. Hon. Secs.: Mrs. Lansbury, Mrs. Wood.

CANNING TOWN.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Parsons, 94 Ravenscroft Road.

ENFIELD AND EDMONTON.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Beavis, 171 Church Street, Lower Edmonton.

LEYTON.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Hart, 73 Calderon Road. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 52.

POPLAR.—Hon. Sec.: Miss E. Lagsding, 20 Railway Street. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 105, per Mrs. Shlette, 66; general, 39.

March 9th, 3 p.m., indoor meeting. Speaker, Miss P. Lynch. Club nights on Fridays 7 p.m., music, games, and dancing.

TIDAL BASIN.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Drake, 49 Crediton Road. DREADNOUGHT sales, average, 36.

ST. PANCRAS.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Redgrove, B.S.P. Hall, 44 Malden Road, Kentish Town. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 13.

WILLESDEN.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Sheppard, 141 Villiers Road. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 12.

PROVINCES

BIRMINGHAM.—Hon. Sec.: Miss A .F. Boden, 10 Sandhurst Road, Moseley. Four fortnightly lectures will be held in Stirchley Institute at 7.30 p.m. Miss Sylvia Pankhurst and Miss Margaret Haly will speak at the Priory Rooms, Upper Priory, Saturday, March 17th, 3 p.m.

BRADFORD.—Hon. Sec.: Miss McHale, 12 Airedale College Terrace. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 26.

BRYNMAWR AND NANTYGLO.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Hayward, Coedcae, Garn Fack.

BURNLEY.—Hon. Sec. pro tem.; Mrs. Mortimer Holden, The Nurseries, Accrington.

CHESTER-LE-STREET.—Hon. Sec.: Miss Faulkner, 14 Hilda Terrace, South Pelaw, Chester-le-Street.

CHOPWELL.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Bell, 62 Forth Street. Fortnightly meetings are to be held to discuss such books as "Woman and Economics," "Woman and Labour," etc. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 12.

CORNSAY AND QUEBEC.—Hon. Sec. pro tem.: Miss Ellis, Dundalk House, Neville's Cross. Branch meeting, Monday, at 197 High Street, Cornsay. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 30.

DONCASTER.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Kent, 32 St. Sepulchre Gate.

DURHAM.—Hon. Sec.: Miss C. Ellis, Dundalk House, Neville's Cross.

FERRYHILL.—Hon. Sec.: Miss Ruby Stoddart, 12 Hackworth Street, Dean Bank. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 12.

HUDDERSFIELD.—Hon. Sec.: Miss Joan Edgehill, B.Sc., 123 Cowcliffe Hill.

LEEDS.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Hunter, 7 Sugdenfold, Armley. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 24.

LEICESTER.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Hill, 12 Sweetbriar Road.

MANCHESTER.—Hon. Sec.: Miss F. Wassilevski, 18 Broughton Street, N. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 26. A social evening has been arranged for March 3rd, at 7 p.m., at West View, 251 Upper Brooke Street, Chorlton-on-Medlock. Members and their friends are cordially invited.

MEDOMSLEY.—Hon. Sec.: Tom Orr, Esq., 6 Derwent Cottages, Durham. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 24.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—Hon. Sec.: Mr. Nicholson, 19 Alexandra Road, North Heaton.

PORTSMOUTH.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Clarges, 200 Westfield Road, E. Southsea. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 8.

ROTHERHAM, WAKEFIELD.—Organiser: Miss Stephen, 46a Spring Street, Huddersfield.

SHEFFIELD.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Manoin, 98 Gell Street. Branch meeting will be held Thursday, March 8th, at 7.30 p.m., Trades Hall, Charles Street. All sympathisers welcome. Local speakers. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 104.

SOUTHAMPTON.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Samuel, 33 Mount Street. DREADNOUGHTS sold, 12.

YORK.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Hall, 43 Lowther Street.

SCOTLAND.

GLASGOW.—Hon. Sec.: Lachlan Smith, Esq., 126 Bothwell Street.

CHOPWELL

The Chopwell Branch of the W.S.F. has written to the members of the Government as follows:—

"Whilst we are pleased to note that the Conference has recommended the extension of the franchise to women, we are greatly dissatisfied with the proposal to extend the same only to women who have reached the age of 30 or 35, this age being, as you know, very much higher than that of the qualifying age for men. Such a proposal is, in our opinion, most unfair, and altogether unjust. If accepted by Parliament, it would exclude from voting rights the great majority of women who are employed in industry and who have during the present national crisis proved themselves worthy of the right to the vote equally with men. We further wish to draw attention to the unfairness of not including women lodgers on the register. We, therefore, urge the Government to set aside these proposals, and to adopt the only fair and just method of establishing complete manhood and womanhood suffrage."

BOW

Will Bow members please note branch meeting called for February 26th has been unavoidably postponed to Monday, March 5th, at 8 p.m., at 400 Old Ford Road. Business: (1) Election of delegates for W.S.F. Conference; (2) Nomination of officers and committee; (3) Discussion of resolutions for Conference. Payment of subscriptions for new year now due. Please make a special effort to attend.

ENTERTAINMENT AT "400"

The nursery staff and friends deserve our hearty congratulations and thanks for the enjoyable evening they arranged on Saturday last. It consisted of comic sketches, national and fancy dances, songs, recitations, music and wax-works display. Worthy of special mention was little Miss Joan Cheney (aged 11), whose graceful dancing and well-rendered recitations were a source of real pleasure.

Deal with our Advertisers, and mention the "Dreadnought."

Donations to be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Dr. Tchaykovsky, or to the Hon. Financial Secretary, Miss N. L. Smyth, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E. All parcels to 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED

GENERAL FUND.—I.L.P., York, per Miss Stephen, 5s.; Mrs. Spill, 2s. COLLECTIONS: Chandos Hall, £1 1s. 3d., profit on tea, 2s. 6d.; Forest Gate, per Mrs. Walker, 3s. 10½d.; Mrs. Boyce, 1s. 2½d.

"DREADNOUGHT" FUND.—Per Mrs. Drake, £5; Mrs. Mabbott, 1s.; Mr. Wailing (Libel), 1s.

MILK AND GENERAL DISTRESS.—Miss M. A. Pelly (10s. monthly), £1 10s.; Miss Beatrice Radford, £1 1s.; Mrs. Fanny Beckett, £1; Miss Florence Patterson, £1; Mrs. Parry, £1; H. Thorpe, Esq., £1; Nurse Hebbes (weekly), 12s.; Mrs. Lalacheur, 10s.; Mrs. Richmond (fortnightly), 10s.; Mrs. E. M. Monkhouse, 3s.; Miss B. Cahill, per Mrs. Bouvier, 3s.; Mrs. Elliot per Miss Stephen, 6d. COLLECTIONS: L.S.A. Toolroom, £1 8s. 9d.; Mrs. Canty, 15s .1d.; Misses E. Lagsding and L. Barker (Green's Yard), 14s. 5d.; Miss Mackay (churn), 11s. 7½d.; Profit on Poplar Club, 11s. 6d.; Misses K. Lagsding and T. Barker (Cubitt Town), 5s. 7½d.; George E. Crews, Esq., 7s. 6d.; Collecting Box, Mothers' Arms, 5s. 5½d.

CLOTHES, ETC.—Miss Kingston, Mrs. Ryley, Mrs. Parry, Mrs. Trevethick.

GROCERIES.—Hampstead National Food Fund.

TWIGS AND IVY.—Mrs. Sinclair.

MOTHERS AND BABIES

The Mothers' Arms, 438 Old Ford Road, Bow.

Day nursery from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Doctor's consultation and baby-weighing, Mondays, 2.30 p.m. Mothers and babies can consult Nurse at any time.

Dental Clinic Wednesday, March 7th, at 2.15 p.m.

Health Talks for Mothers are held the first and third Fridays in the month at 3 p.m., at the Mothers' Arms.

20 Railway Street, Poplar.
(opposite South Bromley Station).

Doctor's consultation and baby-weighing, Tuesdays, 2.30 p.m. Nurse may be seen at any time.

53 St. Leonard's Street, Bromley-by-Bow.

Doctor's consultation and baby-weighing, Wednesdays, 2 p.m.

All mothers and children are welcome.

Cost Price Restaurants at 400 Old Ford Road, and 20 Railway Street. Dinners from 12 till 2 p.m. daily.

WANTS.

Subscriptions to the milk and food fund. Doctoring and nursing can help little if mothers and children are unable to obtain nourishment that is ordered.

New laid eggs, barley, glaxo, virol, for invalids. Medicine bottles, clothing and shoes for adults and boys and girls of all ages.

For baby, four gowns, four barrows, two flannel bands, twelve napkins, three vests, and a cot blanket; for mother, two nightgowns, woollen shawl, three towels, two sheets, and a pair of pillow cases.

Growing plants, flowers and branches for all our centres and for the L.C.C. schools. We should be grateful to friends who would supply us regularly. We also need vegetables and fruit.

More cupboards are needed at all our centres.

CHANDOS HALL "AT HOME" TO-DAY, SATURDAY, at 3.30 p.m.

Speakers:
Mrs. K. Outhwaite and Mr. E. J. Smith
Chair: Miss Lynch

SUNDAY MEETING TO-MORROW at 400 Old Ford Road. Bow, E.

Speakers: Miss Sylvia Pankhurst; Mr. Edward Fuller
Recitation: Miss Dorothy Matthews

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

ADULT SUFFRAGE.—A review of the existing franchise anomalies with strong arguments for Votes for All. Published by the London Labour Council for Adult Suffrage.

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FAMILY LIMITATION DOCTRINE. Post free, 1½d.—Malthusian League, Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster.

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SUPERVISOR with workroom experience wanted.—Apply, Toy Factory, 45 Norman Road, Bow, E.

WANTED, experienced Machinist. Apply 45 Norman Road, Bow, E.

W.S.F. Draw Competition on March 24th 1917, in aid of the W.S.F., "Dreadnought," and Propaganda Fund. Prizes: 1st, Gentleman's Gold Watch; 2nd an Alarm Clock; 3rd, Lady's or Gentleman's Umbrella; 4th, Bound Volume of "The Woman's Dreadnought." Entrance, 2d. Draw Secretary; Mrs. Drake, 49 Crediton Road, Tidal Basin.

Charge for advertising in this column, 1d. per word: four insertions for the price of three.

Clippings of Material of all kinds (must measure at least 5 by 6 inches) can be used in our Toy Factory at 45 Norman Road, Bow, E., and will be most gratefully received if friends will kindly send them.

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ORIGINAL DEFECTIVE.